

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

SENATE BILL 894

4
5 By: Senator Argue
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE EMERGENCY SECONDARY EDUCATION
10 LOAN PROGRAM; TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO ENTER THE
11 FIELD OF TEACHING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13
14 AN ACT TO AMEND THE EMERGENCY SECONDARY
15 EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM; TO ENCOURAGE
16 STUDENTS TO ENTER THE FIELD OF TEACHING.
17
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-506 is amended to read as follows:
22 6-81-506. Eligibility.

23 From funds appropriated for the Student Assistance Grant Program, as
24 authorized by §§ 6-82-201 - 6-82-213, the Department of Higher Education may
25 make loans forgiveness awards, scholarship awards, or forgivable loans. The
26 forgivable loans may be made to students under the following conditions:

27 (1) Loan recipients ~~shall~~ are bona fide residents of the State of
28 Arkansas, as defined by the Department of Higher Education, and are citizens
29 of the United States or permanent resident aliens;

30 (2) Loan recipients ~~shall~~ are enrolled full-time in a regionally
31 accredited public or independent college or university in Arkansas with a
32 teacher education program which has been approved by the Department of
33 Education ~~or in a regionally accredited two-year institution in Arkansas~~
34 ~~where those courses taken are directly creditable toward such program;~~

35 (3) ~~A loan recipient shall be enrolled as a major in a program of~~
36 ~~study leading to secondary teacher certification in Arkansas in mathematics,~~



1 ~~chemistry, physics, biology, physical science, or general science, or shall~~
 2 ~~have completed a program of study as a major in such field culminating in a~~
 3 ~~baccalaureate degree, and shall be enrolled in a program leading to secondary~~
 4 ~~teacher certification in Arkansas; and~~

5 (3) The loan recipient:

6 (1) Is entering or is in a degree program in a teaching field
 7 certified by the Department of Education as experiencing a critical shortage
 8 of teachers in this state in the year in which the person begins the degree
 9 program; or

10 (2) Agrees to teach in a public school in this state in a
 11 community which is not required to be specifically designated at the time the
 12 person receives the grant designated by the Department of Education as
 13 experiencing a critical shortage of teachers in any year in which the person
 14 receives a grant under this section or in any subsequent year in which the
 15 person fulfills the teaching obligation.

16 ~~(4) Loan recipients shall declare an intention to teach the subjects~~
 17 ~~specified in this subchapter in a secondary school in Arkansas; and~~

18 ~~(5) Loan recipients shall maintain a cumulative grade point average in~~
 19 ~~their college work of no less than 2.5-2.75 on a 4.0 scholastic grading scale~~
 20 ~~or appropriate equivalent as determined by the Department of Higher~~
 21 ~~Education.~~

22
 23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-81-507 is amended to read as follows:
 24 6-81-507. Selection of loan recipients.

25 (a) The final responsibility for selecting loan recipients shall rest
 26 jointly with the Director of the Department of Higher Education and the
 27 Director ~~of General Education~~ of the Department of Education.

28 (b)(1) Priority in the awarding of loans shall be given to those
 29 applicants who have demonstrated the greatest academic ability.

30 (2) In cases where two (2) or more applicants receive the same
 31 priority rating, the advantage shall be given to the student who can become
 32 certified in the shortest period of time.

33
 34 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-81-508 is amended to read as follows:
 35 6-81-508. Maximum amount of loans.

36 (a) Students may receive loans up to, ~~but not in excess of, one half~~

1 ~~(1/2) of the cost of student fees, room and board, and books and~~
2 ~~instructional supplies at the institution to be attended in the amount of~~
3 three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year.

4 (b) No student shall receive a loan that, when totaled with all other
5 sources of student financial assistance, exceeds the total cost of education
6 at the institution to be attended.

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8 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-81-509 is amended to read as follows:

9 6-81-509. Duration of loans.

10 Students may receive loans for a maximum of four (4) academic ~~years~~
11 semesters or until such time as they have completed certification to teach in
12 Arkansas, whichever shall come first.

13
14 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, Subchapter 5 is
15 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

16 6-81-511. Loan Repayment.

17 (a) The Department of Higher Education may also make award in the form
18 of existing student loan repayment in an amount of, not to exceed, three
19 thousand dollars (\$3,000) to individuals who have graduated from a, qualified
20 teacher education program and who:

21 (1) Teach in a field certified by the Department of Education as
22 experiencing a critical shortage of teachers in this state; or

23 (2) Teach in a public school in this state in a community
24 designated by the Department of Education as experiencing a critical shortage
25 of teachers.